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REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 14

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
Volume 19
Number 11



HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

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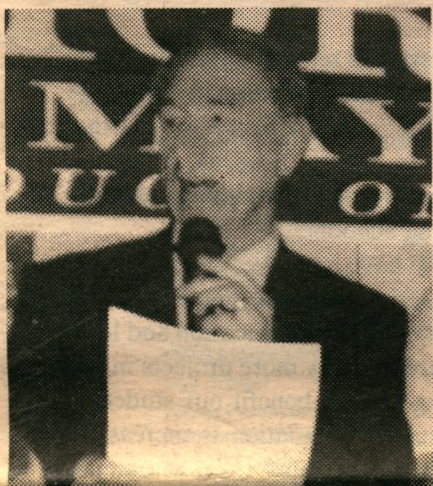
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JUDGE PATRICK MORRIS ELECTED S.B. MAYOR



In a landslide 63.37 % of the vote, Judge Patrick Morris became the new San Bernardino major after a hard and bitter campaign against City Attorney Jim Penman. In an overcrowded campaign headquarters, the audience continually applauded Morris and his wife, Sally. Morris thanked key campaign leaders and workers and city voters for their support.

ANDY MELENDREZ SWORN IN AS RIVERSIDE'S WARD 2 COUNCILPERSON



Andy Melendrez was sworn in as Riverside councilperson for Ward 2. Melendrez won the election in a runoff against Ruby Rasso, a retired Riverside County Sheriff Deputy. Melendrez is the third Hispanic to be elected to the Riverside City Council. Ernie Pintor and John Sotelo preceded Melendrez to the elected position. Photo by IEHN

Andy Melendrez was sworn in as the newest councilperson to represent the City of Riverside's Ward 2, followed by warm applause and cheers

in the city hall chamber of family and supporters that had been patiently waiting for the official ceremony. Melendrez was elected to the council seat after winning in a runoff election against Ruben Rasso, a retired Riverside County sheriff deputy, with a vote of 1,805 and 1,205, respectively.

This exhilarating moment is a political victory for Melendrez and the mostly Hispanic audience. The last Hispanic to be elected to the city council was Ernie Pintor, who served until 1979, when he was not re-elected. Before Pintor, the legendary John Sotelo was the first Hispanic to be elected to the Riverside City Council.

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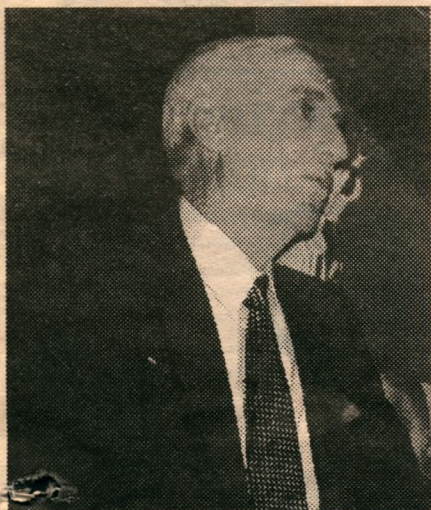
INVESTIGATION CONTINUES ON SHOOTING OF SERVICEMAN

The investigation continues on the shooting of Senior Airman Elio Carrion, 21, on Sunday, January 29, by San Bernardino County Sheriff Ivory John Webb, after a 100 mph plus chase in which he was a passenger in a Chino residential area.

A neighbor, Jose Luis Valdez, videotaped the shooting, and has been widely publicized in national TV and newspapers. The tape has since been turned over to the FBI, and is continuing the investigation of the shooting for possible civil rights violation.

Continue on page 2

COLLEGE READINESS/MATH ADDED GOALS, STATES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT



Emphasizing the importance of county students being better prepared to enter the colleges and universities, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Herbert Fischer highlighted the progress made by students in county schools at the seventh annual State of Education Address at

the Sturges Center for the Fine Arts.

In his annual theme address Learning For A Lifetime, Fischer strongly stressed the need for students to be fully prepared to enter and compete in the 21st century economy, coupled with an overview of public education in the County of San Bernardino.

While county students have increased college-going rate by 44.9 percent during the last five reported years, the area still trails most of California in the numbers of high school graduates going to college, he said.

Continuing the upward trend of college-going figures, Fischer elaborated on collaborative programs among the county offices, school districts, and educational partners, established by the county office of education:

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RCOE DR. DAVID LONG ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY



Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Long, announced his candidacy to run for re-election for county superintendent of schools at a dinner reception in January, 2003, at the Eagle Glen golf Club, Corona Photo by IEHN

Educators, businesspersons, elected officials, parents and students filled the banquet hall of the Eagle Glen Golf Club, Corona, on January 2006, giving Dr. David Long a standing ovation as he officially announced his candidacy for Riverside County Office of Education. "Our students

in Riverside County have rapidly progressed in their education, and in many instances, ahead of others in the state," Long said. "All of us here present have participated in the development and support of programs which have been instrumental in assuring that our students are receiving the very best of our resources and achieved academic excellence in many instances in their educational careers." Long thanked master of ceremony Jim Brulte and keynote speaker State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jack O'Connell.

Long received his Ph. D. from Iowa State University, and has had an extensive career in education for over 40 years as teacher, principal, district superintendent, and since 1999, the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, with a current county enrollment of 394,000 students.

In his address, Long again stressed his primary mission of improving the academic achievement for all students, continued training for administrators and teachers, and

Continue on page 2

ANDY MELENDREZ SWORN IN AS RIVERSIDE'S WARD 2 COUNCILPERSON

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In an interview with IEHN, Melendrez said that on election night he and his election workers watched as the absentee votes were coming in. When the trend showed the votes were favoring his candidacy, he became very excited, contrary to his normal composure.

Ward 2 is composed of the University Corridor, Eastside, Sycamore Canyon, and Canyon Crest. "The Eastside includes UCR, University Avenue, and aside from the high traffic volume, there are gangs, drugs, and prostitution. The Sycamore area has a large warehousing and distributing centers and other areas have other needs that I will be addressing."

Melendrez said that his main priority is to become involved with each area of his diverse ward. "I will establish a communication network and become aware of each of the area's needs and availability of city resources," he said. He also lists business development, public safety, neighborhood integrity, and area traffic management as major issues.

Menlendre, a graduate of Cal-State, San Bernardino, has had a private vocational counseling business for over 23 years. He is actively involved in numerous business and community groups.

He and his wife, Ann-Marie Orta Melendrez are parents of Maria, Aurelio, Erica, and Alex.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES ON SHOOTING OF SERVICEMAN

Continued from page 1

The Sheriff Department, as is its policy, has continued its investigation, however, sheriff officials have not indicated when the investigation will be concluded.

Controversy has followed the shooting, due primarily to the dialogue in the tape between the deputy and Carrion, who was lying prone on

the ground. The voice by Carrion, attempting to follow orders, was heard to be saying, "I'm with the military," and a response by the deputy, "Ok," followed by "You believe me? Alright," Carrion was heard to say, the deputy replied, "OK, Get up. Get up," the deputy ordered. "OK, I'm going to get up," Carrion said. Seconds later, Carrion lay wounded on the Chino Street, having been shot three times.

The shooting alarmed many in the Hispanic community. Father Patricio Guillen, co-director of Libreria Del Pueblo, in an interview, stated, "We feel badly in this matter. We should not tolerate this type of shooting, especially to a young man who is serving our country. This was an irresponsible action on the part of the deputy. The community should see the tape and have a meeting with the sheriff to protest this action."

The investigation is continuing, stated Robin Haynal, Sheriff Department public information. "We are conducting a thorough investigation and when completed, a report will be submitted to the district attorney for their decision of the investigation."

Dr. Armando Navarro, in an interview with the IEHN, stated, "We are involved with the important Summit at the present time. Many of us in the Hispanic community are very frustrated with what has happened to this young man. However, the National Alliance for Human Rights will be meeting with the Carrion family on this urgent matter. Furthermore, we will also be contacting other civil rights leaders and collaboratively confront this issue."

RCOE DR. DAVID LONG ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

Continued from page 1

safe environment in school facilities. During his two-term tenure, programs and projects have achieved outstanding successful performances in the county.

Riverside Education Summit, a county-wide annual conference of state, county and local education leaders, businesspersons, and parents, addressing key education issues and concerns, and strengthening interrelationships among core groups.

Riverside County Achievement Teams (RCAT), an eight special component program, including two bilingual components, consisting of specially trained educators that collaborates with districts to improve under performing schools. RCAT, a model for counties in the state, has lead the 58 counties in achieving test gains for the past several years, with RCAT being a contributing factor for its success. RCAT Plus, a new component, addresses academic achievement of special education students.

Connect to Achieve, a program to help students and families with problems related to violence, drugs, and alcohol abuse. The program, consisting of law enforcement and counselor teams works, with district schools to develop a safety environment and increase student academic performance. This program was federally funded with \$9 million to serve over 93,000 students.

Other projects include the Reading Task Force, Bilingual Task Force, Williams Lawsuit, among others.

Selected to serve on the Teacher Assistance Corps, created by the U.S. Department of Education, Long and a team of Riverside County education leaders have visited many areas in the country, speaking in workshops to attract qualified teachers, to serve in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Long serves in highly active edu-

cational groups: president of the California County Superintendents Educational Services; First 5 Riverside Commissioner; State Conditions of Children Council; California Interscholastic Federation; Foundation for the Retarded of the Desert, United Way of the Inland Valleys, and others.

He has been awarded: National Association of Partners in Education-California Administrator of the Year; Canyon Lake-Man of the Year; Governor's Award for School Leadership; Inland Empire-2003 Entrepreneur of the Year; California School Administrators- prestigious Marcus Foster Memorial Award, among others.

Long was recently invited with 18 other educators to meet in Washington, D.C. with the Secretary of Education to discuss how his office has been instrumental in aiding low performing schools.

"We have had a very exciting and productive year at the Riverside County Office of Education and look forward to many more projects in the coming year to benefit our students. Our school population is increasing at tremendous rates. We, as parents and professional educators must continue to rapidly produce effective education programs to meet the challenges of our economic and technical progress in our society and ensure that our students are prepared to compete in the world of work," Long stated.

**The hardest thing
in the world to
understand is
income tax.
Albert Einstein
(NAPS)**

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The Inland Empire Hispanic News is owned and operated by the Hispanic Communication and Development Corporation.

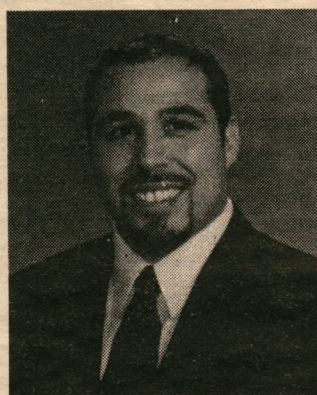
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YET AGAIN, REPUBLICANS VOTE AGAINST HARD-WORKING AMERICANS

*Immoral Republican Budget passes House
by 216 to 214 vote*

Washington, DC — The Congressional Hispanic Caucus expressed its outrage over budget priorities that are out of touch with the American people. By a vote of 216 to 214, the House of Representative approved the "Deficit Reduction Act" (also referred to as the Budget Reconciliation Spending Cuts Act), which slashes \$39 billion out of vital programs in healthcare, education, and other services that assist working-class people.

These funding cuts are being used by Republicans to help pay for another bill currently moving through Congress that contains \$56 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest. When combined, these two bills will actually increase the deficit by \$17 billion over the next five years.

Latinos will be disproportionately affected by the budget cuts as many fall in the low and middle income brackets. Not one Democrat voted in favor of the bill, which will now be sent to the President for his signature.

"Only in George Bush's Adminis-

tration could a so-called "Deficit Reduction Act" actually increase the American deficit," said Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, CHC chair. "The immoral and deceitful tactics of this Republican-led government boggles the mind. Americans are working harder than ever to care for their families and the Republicans just made it more difficult for them to get by.

For many of our Latino families, this is a real setback that will force them to make even more difficult choices, between paying for healthcare or their child's education or perhaps neither."

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) is comprised of 21 members of Congress of Hispanic descent. Since 1976 the CHC has been addressing the needs of the Hispanic community in all areas of American life. For more information on the CHC, call (202) 225-2410.

www.napolitano.house.gov/chc/

MAYOR NORMA TORRES SWORN IN AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POMONA



Photo credit to City of Pomona

Norma J. Torres, first elected Latina mayor, was sworn in at the Pomona Council Chambers on Monday, February 6, 2006, followed by a public celebration at an open house at the Pomona City Hall.

Torres was elected to the Pomona City Council in 2000, representing the sixth district.

She had previously helped organized the Neighbors For Pomona, a community-based group dedicated to reducing crime in the City of Pomona.

Torres also has been advocating for an initiative to reduce the number of sex offenders living in the Pomona community.

Torres was born in Guatemala, Central America on April 23, 1965. At age five, the family immigrated to the United States, and she has been a resident of the City of Pomona for 16

years. Married to Louis Torres, they are parents of three sons: Robert, 19, Christopher, 16, and Matthew, 13

Torres was employed as a 9-1-1 dispatcher with the City of Los Angeles Police Department. As a result of a tragic experience due to lack of understanding a non-English caller, Torres became involved with the Los Angeles City Council and advocated to provide quality of service to non-English callers. Because of her advocacy, the 911 center received funding to improve the services, the employment of bilingual staff.

Mayor Torres' major initiatives include greater involvement with every sector of the community, promoting healthier, safe neighborhoods and schools, and enhancing the city's interrelationship with local and state agencies.

PRAYER VIGIL & CANDLE LIGHT PROCESSION

*A commitment to partnership.
Unite with people who care.*

**Tired of violence in our city?
Join the City's Youth and Raise Your
Voice For a Better Community
Procession starting at St. Bernadine's
Catholic Church (Corner of 5th and F St.)
to City Hall
Saturday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

COLLEGE READINESS/MATH ADDED GOALS, STATES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from page 1

ALLIANCE for EDUCATION-a partnership of 1,200 education, business, labor, community and faith-based partners working workforce needs and state's world-class educational standards;

THREE REGIONAL P-16 COUNCILS-the Councils have resolved to make A-G coursework completion the expectation for all students. Studies have shown that students mastering the demanding curriculum are more assuredly to remain in school;

The PROMISE INITIATIVE-(Pursuing Regional Opportunities for Mentoring, Innovation and Success for English Learners), an extremely successful project that has existed for several years, created by a partnership among six Southern California offices of education, a school district in each county, and several schools in each of the districts. Utilizing research-based core principles, the teams design, implement, and evaluate customized programs to close the achievement gap for English learners. (editor's note-the annual PROMISE regional conferences, covered by IEHN, fully attended, reflects the interest by bilingual parents in the Southern California area for the education of their children.)

Fischer cited the accomplishments of county schools. Standardized test scores have risen for county students for six consecutive years, with this year's 18 point gain the Academic Performance Index, and the second

highest for the past six years.

He stated that Hispanic and Black students have shown a significant gain, thus closing the achievement gap.

Math is a priority, Fischer said. "The majority of our students still have difficulties with algebra and higher math.

"Math is the gatekeeper that keeps our students out of college. We must move forward, not stand still until all our students are lifelong learners."

An article in the Los Angeles times, published on Friday, February 3, 2006, (Inland Empire edition, page 2) stated that according to Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, the United States was in ninth place (tied with Latvia) in math in comparison with 12 major industrialized countries. The Study found that U.S. 15-year olds scored low on the PISA mathematics test. (Resource: American Institutes for Research)

Fischer also stated his strong support for the Preschool For All, an initiative sponsored by film director Rob Reiner, that would ensure that every 4-year old in California is given an opportunity to attend preschool. If the initiative passes, the responsibility for implementing will probably be placed at the county office of education. Many educators are supportive of the initiative.

Fischer announced that he is a candidate to run for re-election this year.

**Look at a day when you are supremely
satisfied at the end.**

**It is not a day when you lounge around
doing nothing; it is when you have had
everything to do and you have done it.**

Margaret Thatcher (NAPS)

IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

Protect the Rights of the Immigrant

Defeat Anti-Immigrant Legislation

The National Alliance for Human Rights, M.E.Ch.A. de UCR, UCR Chicano Student Programs, and the Southern California Human Rights Coalition and in collaboration with national and state groups have scheduled an Immigration Summit to be held at the:

Riverside Convention Center, 3443 Orange St., Riverside, CA

Registration: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Summit: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Action agenda: Create National Mobilization for Reform and Legalization,

Defeat F. James Sensenbrenner

The Summit's agenda will focus on creating a strategic plan of action designed to promote a national campaign for immigration reform and legislation and anti-immigration legislation

Registration cost for conference and materials: \$10 Non-Student, Faculty, Staff, Community Member, \$5 College Student or High School Student with ID

For more information, contact The National Alliance for Human Rights
(951) 827-1826

BACA CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM, CRITICIZES INEFFECTIVE, MEAN-SPIRITED BILL

Washington, DC - *Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) appeared today with other leaders of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to denounce a Republican anti-immigrant proposal designed to score political points.*

Congressman Baca released the following statement to announce his support for realistic, meaningful and comprehensive immigration reform legislation and to highlight the many flaws and shortcomings in H.R. 4437, a controversial bill that is expected to come up for a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives tomorrow.

"Our nation needs secure borders to keep out terrorists and criminals, but we cannot solve immigration problems solely through enforcement, and we should not treat all immigrants as felons," Congressman Baca said.

This year Members of Congress, President Bush, business organizations, and the advocacy community have all expressed the need for comprehensive reform of our immigration laws.

Unfortunately, this bill, H.R. 4437, the Border and Immigration Enforcement Act, does not approach this important issue in a comprehensive manner.

America has spent more and more money and hired more and more border patrol agents only to see immigration increase dramatically. Enforcement-only approaches like H.R. 4437 have failed and will fail. Stricter enforcement has merely encouraged immigrants to cross the border in more remote and more dangerous areas where they are more difficult to catch and more likely to die.

This bill will not protect our nation. It is simply an attempt to pass anti-immigrant legislation under the mask of reform. Instead, we need realistic and compassionate reform. Politicians and talk radio can make outrageous statements about immigrants, but the truth is that Americans rely on immigrant labor to maintain our economy and quality of life. Immigrants have made the communities in the Inland Empire stronger and better. And across the country - cities, towns, and businesses have all benefited from the contributions of immigrants. This legislation has a face: It is the face of a nanny, a gardener, and the cook at your favorite restaurant, the cleaning crews at your workplace.

We need legislation that provides immigrants like these hardworking people of good character with a path towards citizenship.

I join with my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in

supporting comprehensive immigration reform. America needs a border security PLUS bill, one that protects our borders, respects American values by reuniting families, and provides earned legalization for immigrants who have proven to be law abiding members of society.

H.R. 4437 deals with border security alone, ignores the reality of our current immigration challenge, and jeopardizes the welfare and security of this country. This legislation contains many provisions that are merely an assault on hard working immigrants and their families and provide no meaningful reform for our broken immigration system. The bill makes being in the United States without "papers" a felony. This has the effect of making 11 million undocumented immigrants felons. Is that what America wants - to arrest and lock up 11 million immigrants, most of them hard-working people who contribute so much to our economy and our communities?

How would Republicans propose going about this? Are they planning to build detention camps with tent cities for 11 million people to live until they can be deported?

In addition, who is going to identify and round up the immigrants? This bill would allow state and local police to enforce federal criminal laws. However, police departments do not want to become immigration enforcers because it distracts them from doing their primary job - to fight crime and protect us from the real threats against our communities.

Also police understand that if immigrants do not feel safe calling the police, they will remain silent when they witness a crime or are victims of crime. And that hinders the police and makes our neighborhoods more dangerous.

Furthermore, this bill would also permit states and localities to use funds from homeland security grant programs for immigration enforcement activities. Our first responders need every dime of homeland security funds they receive to prevent and respond to emergencies. This provision raids their coffers to encourage state and local police to be immigration agents.

This bill also contains a provision to extend mandatory detention to all non-citizens detained at a port of entry or along the border even if they pose no flight risk or danger. This would result in serious injustices and the wasteful use of resources.

This bill also severely restricts opportunities for deserving long term immigrants to pursue citizenship. It

bars countless refugees and asylum seekers from permanent residency and creates new and unprecedented grounds for making immigrants inadmissible or subject to deportation.

H.R. 4437 also authorizes the expansion of expedited removal, which could lead to racial profiling by low level immigration officers. I am especially concerned that Latinos and other American citizens who look "different" than the stereotypical image of an American will be subject to racial profiling.

This legislation goes even further by branding all undocumented immigrants - even children - as felons! Imagine that. Over 1.6 million undocumented children would be affected. A child whose parents decided to come to our country will be a felon. Does that mean immigrant children will be kicked out of school? Will

teachers and principals be required to turn in their students or to act as immigration agents themselves?

This bill outrageously tramples on the U.S. Constitution by changing the law and tradition of granting citizenship to all children born within our borders. Some mean-spirited people want to deny these children their birth-right!

We must reject measures that punish children and treat them as criminals and undesirables.

I support immigration policies that will keep America safe, strong, democratic and fair. We should work to reunite families, meet the labor needs of America's economy, secure economic stability for our neighbors to the south, and honor the values of the United States of America as a nation of immigrants.

CNA WELCOMES COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF CLEAN MONEY BILL

A bill to help reduce the corrupting influence of corporations and millionaire donors in the political process in California passed an important hurdle Tuesday afternoon with a narrow 4-3 approval in the Assembly Elections Committee.

AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, provides for public financing for candidates who agree to voluntarily accept limits on contributions from big money interests.

"Enactment of AB 583 would be a significant step forward to lifting the stain on our democracy and political system so evident nationally in the Abramoff and DeLay scandals," said Rose Ann DeMoro, executive director of the California Nurses Association a key sponsor of the bill.

"In California, this vote and the grassroots movement that has been building for the bill, symbolizes the growing voter revolt against two consecutive governors and the legislature for the embarrassment of cash register politics in Sacramento," DeMoro said.

Introduced by Assembly member Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), the bill next heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. As legislation

carried over from last year, the bill must clear the full Assembly by the end of January. In addition to CNA, other supporters include the League of Women Voters, Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, Gray Panthers, Sierra Club, and the California Clean Money Campaign.

Voting for the bill today were Assembly members Johan Klehs (D-Hayward), Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach), Mark Leno (D-SF), and Lloyd Levin (D-Van Nuys). Voting no were Tom Umberg (D-Anaheim), Mark Wyland (R-Vista), and Michael Villines (R-Clovis).

Enactment of AB 583 would make California the fourth state to establish a clean money system with public financing, following Connecticut, which just enacted its law late last year, Maine and Arizona. In Maine and Arizona, most candidates now adhere to the clean money guidelines, and as a result of the reform more women, minorities and working people have been able to run for office and win.

DeMoro called the effort to change the political system a "bold step forward to reinvigorating our democracy and helping to restore faith in government."

The best measure of a man's honesty
isn't his income tax return. It is
the zero adjust on his bathroom scale.
Arthur C. Clarke (NAPS)

BEWARE OF "FOR SALE BY OWNER" – NOT ALWAYS A GOOD BUY

CHICAGO – The "For Sale by Owner" (FSBO) sign grabs your attention as you wend your way through the neighborhood you have been wanting to call home. You figure it must be a good deal because the seller will not have to pay a commission to a real estate agent.

Well, think again, warns Kevin L. Shepherd, chair-elect of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section of the American Bar Association. "Most people who sell their homes without the assistance of a real estate broker do not have a thorough understanding of the market, and are more likely to price their property higher than it is worth."

In fact, FSBO is typically not a wise decision for the seller either. The seller will not have access to the many resources that real estate agents have to attract buyers – especially the Multiple Listing Service. In addition, responsibilities include handling the advertising of the home, being available to show the home to potential buyers, and negotiating the sale price and contract provisions.

"Buying or selling a home is such a major undertaking – the biggest financial deal most people make in their lives – that it's surprising people think they can save money by going it along. In reality, it may cost them much more in the end," explains Shepherd. Among the many factors that affect your role as a buyer or seller include state and federal law, the economy, your personal preferences, your financial situations, the prevailing real estate market, current mortgage rates, and tax considerations.

In almost any real estate transaction, several people need to be involved. "Don't view it as a tennis match between a single buyer and seller, but as a team sport where each player has a specific role," says Kathy Matthews, a real estate broker in Chicago's northwest suburbs. These experts include real estate agents, attorneys, lenders, home inspectors, appraisers, surveyors, title companies, homeowner associations, local property inspectors, insurance agents, and sometimes contractors.

Buying and selling real estate always entails a written contract. Professional real estate agents and real estate attorneys are trained to handle the mounds of paperwork and contracts associated with the sale and purchase of a home.

When should you consult an attorney? According to the American Bar Association's *Family legal Guide*, buyers will want an attorney to enter the process when they are ready to make an offer, and, certainly, before they sign an offer to purchase. Sell-

ers should consult an attorney early in the process and before signing a listing agreement with a real estate agent.

To find a lawyer with experience in real estate issues or any other type of law, contact your local Lawyer Referral program. Visit the ABA's web site at www.aganet.org/referral for a listing of the more than 300 Lawyer referral programs throughout the country, or check your Yellow pages under **Lawyer Referral**.

Lawyers who are registered with the Lawyer Referral program are in good standing with the state bar associations and are considered qualified in the areas of practice. When you call

the referral program, a trained staff person will determine the nature of your legal question and will give you a name of a lawyer to contact.

If you are referred to a lawyer by the service, you will be entitled to a half-hour initial consultation at no charge, or for a nominal fee – typically \$35 or less – that helps to fund the local Lawyer Referral program.

More than 10 million callers are helped annually with legal information through public service Lawyer Referral programs. The ABA Standing Committee on Lawyer Referral and Information Service approves public service Lawyer Referral programs that provide consumers help

and information through referrals to the public agencies and lawyers qualified in particular areas of law.

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

LANDLAW

EDUCATION SERVICES

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- **Location:** 1550 So. Avalon Blvd.
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**Light refreshments, tours
and demonstrations**

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Donna Fenton at (800)749-4009**

FIRST NATIONAL STUDY OF DAY LABORERS EXPOSES ABUSE, INJURIES

BY Meg Sullivan, msullivan@support.ucla.edu and Carol Stogsdill, ctogsdill@support.ucla.edu

They attend church, raise children and participate in community activities and institutions. Yet, when America's day laborers go to work, they have experiences that would shock any other upstanding community member: police harassment, violence at the hands of employers, withheld wages and conditions so dangerous that is not unusual for them to be sidelined for more than a month with work-related injuries or to work for weeks on end in pain.

This is the vivid portrait painted by the first nationwide study of America's 117,600 day laborers. Orchestrated by social scientists from UCLA, the University of Illinois at Chicago and New York's New School University, "On the Corner: Day Labor in the United States" presents findings from a survey of 264 hiring sites in 143 municipalities in 20 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

"The goal was to document a population that, though quite visible on the corners of U.S. cities, is poorly understood by the public and by policy makers," said Nik Theodore, an assistant professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Program at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and one of the study's three lead authors. "We hope to inform policy debates so that decision-makers can devise thoughtful and effective strategies for resolving many of the problems that day laborers face."

Three years in the making, the report includes the first-ever national count of U.S. day laborers, little-known characteristics of these workers' backgrounds and troubling aspects of their working conditions across five U.S. regions: the West, Midwest, Southwest, South and East.

"Day labor has been thrust into the public consciousness, but we're concerned that the debate has gone on without an understanding of what gives rise to the phenomenon or what the many downsides are to work in

this field," said Abel Valenzuela, a UCLA social scientist and study co author.

Among the findings:

Once contained to ports-of-entry cities along the East and West coasts, day labor is now a nationwide phenomenon, spilling into small and rural towns throughout America, including the South and Midwest. Day labor may be widespread, but the total count of these workers is actually one tenth to one-20th the size banded about by anti-immigration forces.

Wage theft is the most common abuse suffered by day laborers, with nearly half of all workers having been denied payment in the two months prior to the survey.

Just over three-quarters of day laborers are undocumented immigrants, meaning that the share of American citizens working in day labor is much higher than commonly supposed and that day laborers account for only a small fraction of the estimated 7- to 11-million undocumented immigrants in America today.

Valenzuela, Theodore and New School economist Edwin Melendez directed teams of surveyors during July and August 2004 as they interviewed 2,660 randomly selected day laborers at 264 hiring sites across the nation.

Interviewers asked about the workers' educational backgrounds, family lives, occupational histories and experiences as day laborers, including injuries sustained on the job and the nature and frequency of abuse at the hands of employers, merchants, police and security guards.

Using statistical methods pioneered by researchers of another shifting and hard-to-quantify American population the homeless Theodore, Valenzuela and Melendez were able to create a statistically valid snapshot of day labor in America today, a portrait previously considered too difficult to capture.

HOUSE CAVES TO RIGHT, PASSES IMMIGRATION BILL THAT WON'T SOLVE PROBLEM

WASHINGTON-The right wing of the Republican Party muscled anti-immigration legislation through the House of Representatives on Friday, despite the strong objections of People For the American Way and a broad array of groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of La Raza and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The legislation, titled the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act (H.R. 4437), is a textbook enforcement-only bill that mirrors the decades of failed policies that have made a mockery of our immigration system. It is an approach that People For the American Way President Ralph G. Neas has said will simply not work.

"This enforcement-only legislation repeats an approach that has proven time and again that it does not work," Neas said. "Real reform must

be comprehensive, but unfortunately, it seems as though many members of Congress would rather demagogue the issue than fix the problem."

This deeply flawed bill's enforcement-only approach is a far cry from the comprehensive immigration reform approach that is needed to make our immigration system safe and orderly. The bill would gut the fundamental due process rights of immigrants; make criminals out of hard-working taxpayers, even if they are guilty of only technical violations of immigration laws; and militarize the border.

Experts agree that successful reform must allow for future flows of workers that are necessary for economic growth, create a path to earned legalization for the estimated 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S., and reduce the backlog in processing applications so families can reunite with their loved ones.

DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE GROWING FOR LATINOS, GAP CLOSING FOR OTHER MINORITIES, STUDY SAYS.

While health care disparities for most U.S. minorities compared with whites are narrowing, Latinos are falling further behind, according to a study by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AP/Long Island Newsday. AHRQ released reports using data mostly from 2002 and 2003 that examined disparities in 46 different health care measures, along with six categories of access to care (Freking, Long Island Newsday, 1/9).

The national Healthcare disparities Report and the National Healthcare Quality Report are released annually (Carey, CQ HealthBeat, 1/9). AHRQ finds that 59% of disparity measures were widening for Latinos, while 41% were decreasing. AP/Newsday reports Treatments for diabetes, mental illness and tuberculosis, as well as dental and preventative care, were among the areas in which disparities for Latinos were increasing. Among blacks, 58% of disparities were becoming smaller, and 42% were increasing. In addition, AHRQ reported

that in five out of six categories of access to care, disparities increased for Latinos. Those disparities narrowed in all categories for blacks, Asians and American Indians.

Officials say they cannot identify the reasons for the gaps in health care for Latinos. Carolyn Clancy, director of AHRQ, said, "The fact that we know it exists prompts a lot of local communities to say, 'What is going on here?' and to figure the disparities, adding that she did not know the extent to which illegal immigration plays a role."

Elena Rios, president and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association, said that two out of every five Hispanics are uninsured, including both legal and illegal immigrants. The quality of care for U.S. residents as a whole increased by 2.8%, the same rate as in last year's report, Clancy said (AP/Long Island Newsday, 1/9).

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the reports.

A webcast is available online at kaisernetwork.org.

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